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The Crops of Acorns.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

There came a man in days of old,
To hire a piece of land for gold,
And urged his suit in accents meek:
"One crop alone, is all I seek;
That harvest o'er, my claim I yield,
And to its lord resign the field."

The owner some misgivings felt,
And coldly with the stranger dealt,
But found his last objection fail,
And honied eloquence prevail,
So took the proffered price in hand,
And for one crop leased out the land.

The wily tenant sneered out with pride,
And sowed the spot with acorns wide;
At first, like tiny shoots they grew,
Then broad and wide their branches threw,
But long before these oaks sublime
Aspiring reach'd their forest prime,
The cheated landlord mouldering lay
Forsaken, with his kindred clay.

Oh ye, whose years unfolding fair,
Are fresh from youth and free from care,
Should Vice or Indolence desire
The garden of your soul to hire,
No parley hold, eject the suit,
Nor let one seed the soil pollute.

My child, their first approach beware,
With firmness break the insidious snare,
Lest, as the acorns grew and throve
Into a sun excluding grove,
Thy sins, a dark o'ershadowing tree,
Shut out the light of heaven from thee.

From the St. Louis Republican.

Humboldt.

Humboldt is the great attraction wherever he goes. In spite of his four score years, he looks as hale and hearty, and is as cheerful as a youth of eighteen. He has the kindest, most benevolent countenance, the mildest blue eyes, and most gentle manners imaginable; and as to his conversation, it is eloquence distilled, flowing smoothly and unceasingly, charming all to whom he addresses himself, causing them to wonder how the mind of one man could grasp and retain such universal knowledge. I was surprised to learn that it was not until he was 30 years of age that he really commenced his travels; but he had been preparing himself since boyhood, and started forth a geologist, mineralogist, botanist, anatomist and linguist. He traveled under the most favorable circumstances, being personally very easy in money matters, and being aided wherever he went by the different governments and scientific men. Without this, he could not have acquired all the knowledge he possesses. Many of your readers are familiar

with his travels, but do they know how he has toiled and labored to give his fellow-men the benefit of those travels? We talk of prolific writers, but none will bear mentioning by the side of Humboldt. Some idea of what he has done may be obtained by the fact, that one set (I do not mean one edition) alone of his works costs *ten thousand dollars*! A space of two yards long in his library is occupied by his works on Botany, all folios and written in Latin. He speaks, understands, and writes, perfectly the English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Sanscript, and German, besides having a partial knowledge of nearly all other languages. He never sleeps more than four hours, and says that from boyhood he never required more. All the work he has done, all that ten thousand dollars' worth of writing has been done at night, between the hours of eleven and three; he never works at any other time. He is the intimate and beloved friend of the King, and for several years past has resided in the palace. At Potsdam, and in Berlin, his handsome suits of apartments are near the King.

As I before said, he goes to bed at three o'clock in the morning in winter, and at two in summer, rises at six or seven, takes a perfectly cold bath, then his coffee, and employs the remainder of the day until dinner time, in reading, and answering the letters he receives. I say the remainder of the day, but he always reserves two hours, from twelve until two, to receiving his friends; but with that exception he does nothing but attend to his correspondence. He says he receives on an average between *two and three hundred thousand letters a year*! and to nearly all of them he sends replies. He gets letters from all parts of the globe, and from the most remote corners. His evenings are always spent with the King in his Majesty's private apartment; and thus his life passes, calmly and peaceably, and while he is engaged in the purest and most elevated of all enjoyments, that of imparting to others portions of the great stock of a knowledge he possesses, he patiently waits for the time he shall be called from the earth he has studied so deeply.

A scientific society never holds a meeting here without receiving some valuable communication from Humboldt, and it is always something new, something which he seems to have reserved for that especial occasion, and never to have given to the world before. He says he still studies as diligently as he did fifty years ago, and he does not feel his thirst for knowledge at all diminished.

Books.

BY E. P. WHIPPLE

Books—light-houses erected in the great sea of time—books, the precious depositories of the thoughts and creations of genius—books, by whose sorcery time present, and the whole pageantry of the world's history, moves in solemn procession before our eyes; these now visit the firesides of the humble, and lavish the treasures of the intellect upon the poor. Could we have Plato, and Shakspeare, and Milton, in our dwellings, in the full freshness of their hearts, few scholars would be affluent enough to afford them physical support; but the living images of their minds are within the eyes of all. From their pages their mighty souls look out upon us in all their grandeur and beauty, beauty undimmed by the faults and follies of earthly existence, consecrated by time. Precious and priceless are the blessings which books scatter around our daily paths. We walk, in imagination, with the noblest spirits, through the most sublime and enchanting regions—regions which, to all that is lovely in the forms and colors on earth,

Add the gleam,
The light that never was on sea or land.

A motion of the hand brings all Acadia to sight. The war of Troy can, at our bidding, rage in the narrowest chamber. Without stirring from our fire-sides, we may roam to the most remote regions of the earth, or soar into realms where Spencer's shapes of unearthly beauty flock to meet us, where Milton's angels peal in our ears the choral hymns of paradise. Science, art, literature, philosophy—all that man has thought, all that man has done, the experience that has been bought by the sufferings of a hundred generations—all are garnered up for us in the world of books. There, "among realities, in a substantial world," we move with the crowned kings of thought. There our minds have a free range, our hearts a free utterance. Reason is confined within none of the partitions which trammel it in life. The hard granite of conventionalism melts away as a thin mist. We call things by their right names. Our lips give not the lie to our hearts. We bend the knee only to the great and good. We despise only the despicable; we honor only the honorable. In that world, no divinity hedges a king, no accident of rank or fashion ennobs a dunce, or shields a knave. There, and almost only there, do our affections have free play. We can select our companions from among the most richly gifted of the sons of God, and they are companions who will not desert us in poverty, or sickness, or disgrace. When everything fails—when fortune frowns, and friends cool, and health forsake us—when this great world of forms and shows appears a "two edged lie, which seems but is not," when all our earth-clinging hopes and ambitions melt away into nothingness,

"Like snow flakes on a river,
One moment white, then gone forever,"

we are still not without friends to animate and console us—friends, in whose immortal countenances, as they look upon us from books, we can discern no change; who will people solitude with shapes more glorious than ever glittered in palaces; who will consecrate sorrow and take the sting from care, and who, in the long hours of despondency and weakness, will send healing to the sick heart and energy to the wasted brain. Well might Milton exclaim, in that impassioned speech for liberty of unlicensed printing, where every word helps with intellectual life: "Who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but who destroys a good book kills reason itself; kills the image of God, as it were, in the eye.

What Perseverance will Accomplish.

About forty years ago, in the woods near the line between Tennessee and Kentucky, stood a log cabin, sixteen feet by eighteen, which was occupied by a father and mother with some ten or twelve children, and among them was the hero of our sketch. In his infancy he was fed on corn and hominy, bear meat, and the flesh of such wild animals as were caught in the woods.

At twelve years of age he was put out to work with a neighbor, as a farm-boy. He drove oxen, hoed corn, and raised tobacco in the summer, and cured it in the winter, till he was seventeen years old. Then he learned to make brick. To this he added the profession of a carpenter; and by these successive steps in mechanical arts he became able, by his unassisted skill, to raise a house from a clay-pit, or from the stump, and complete it in all its parts. He could do it, too, in a manner that none of his competitors could surpass.

His panel-doors are the wonder and admiration of the country, in which they continue to swing on hinges. He never saw the inside of a school-house or church, till after he was eighteen years old. Having achieved the valuable acquisitions of reading and writing, by the aid of another, all his other education has been the fruit of his own application and perseverance.

At the age of twenty-two, he conceived the idea of fitting himself for the practice of law. He at first procured an old copy of Blackstone, and having, after the close of his daily labors, by nightly studies over a pitch-knot fire in his log cabin, mastered the contents of that compendium of common law, he pursued his researches into other elementary works.

Having thus, by great diligence, acquired the rudiments of his profession, he met an old lawyer who had left the practice, or whose practice had left him, with whom he made a bargain for his secretary and library, for which he was to pay him one hundred and twenty dollars in carpenter's work. The chief part of the job to be done in payment for these old, musty books, was

dressings and laying down a floor at three dollars per square of ten feet.

The library paid for, our hero dropped the adze, plane and trowel, and we soon after hear of him as one of the most prominent members of the Mississippi bar, and an able statesman and orator. "I heard him one day," says one, "make two speeches in succession, each of three hours in length, to the same audience, and not a movement testified any weariness on the part of a single auditor; and during his delivery, the assembly seemed swayed by the orator as weeds before the wind."

That poor farm-boy is now at Washington, a member of Congress from Mississippi. His name is Patrick W. Tompkins. He is a self-made man, and his history shows what an humble boy can do when he is determined to TRY.

Saturday Rambler.

Good Manners.

We have known a young man, slow, sullen, heavy-browed and ungracious, who, whenever you speak to him, answers as if it were an effort to be even decently civil; and who, moreover, seemed to be quite content, and even proud of his incivility.

And we lean to the charitable side so far as to think this nothing more than a bad habit of his, which has insensibly fastened upon him; and that he goes through the world—a world of mutual dependence—little aware of the fact, that so small a thing as his manners is constantly producing impressions, and fast forming a reputation such as ten years hence he may regret as the great blunder of his life.

Would it not be well for every young man to learn the truthful anecdote of the rich Quaker Banker, who, when asked the secret of his success in life, answered, "Civility, friend, civility!" How much does it cost a man, either old or young, to be truly civil in the intercourse of society? Rather, how much does it cost a young man to form this habit, which, if formed, will sit upon him easily, gracefully, and profitably, so long as he lives? Far more often depends on this little, often despised, civility to the world, than any other single adventitious circumstance by which men rise and fall. We may look around us at any time, and see men high in place and power, who have not attained that elevation by force of individual power, who have not attained that elevation by force of individual character and great knowledge, but simply from the fact that the trifling graces of life have not been despised. It is not a dancing master's grace that is now referred to, but the benevolence of manner that recognizes in little things the rights of others, and fully acknowledges such rights. The thousand ways in which this little courtesy does good need hardly be mentioned. It may be said, however, that a courteous manner has a reflective influence on the benevolent feelings. It is a

source of gratification to the man who practices it. If it sits naturally upon a man, it is a passport to any place and any circle.

It has smoothed many a rough path for men first starting in business, and has been one of the things that has often crowned efforts with success. The man of experience, looking on an ungracious manner in a young person just starting into the world with nothing he can depend on but himself, is not angered, but rather pained, by what he sees, knowing, as he does, that the want of that little something to please as we go along, will cause many a rough jog in the road, which, otherwise, might be as smooth as a summer stream. Wear a hinge in your neck, young man, and keep it well oiled.

Presbyterian Advocate.

The Cords that Hung Tawell.

The following thrilling passage, upon the power of the Magnetic Telegraph, is from a new work by Sir Francis Head. After picturing Tawell, who had just committed a murder, seated in the railroad car for London, he says:

"What may have been his fears, his hopes, his fancies, or his thoughts, there suddenly flashed along the wires of the electric telegraph, which were stretched close beside him, the following words: 'A murder has just been committed at Salthill, and the suspected murderer was seen to take a first class ticket for London by the train which left Slough at 7h. 42m., P. M. He is in the garb of a Quaker, with a brown great coat on, which reaches nearly down to his feet. He is in the last compartment of the second first-class carriage.' And yet, fast as these words flew like lightning past him, the information they contained, with all its details, as well as every secret thought that had preceded them, had already consecutively flown millions of times faster; indeed, at the very instant that, within the walls of the little cottage at Slough, there had been uttered that dreadful scream, it had simultaneously reached the judgment seat of Heaven! On arriving at the Paddington station, after mingling for some moments with the crowd, he got into an omnibus, and as it rumbled along, taking up one passenger, putting down another, he probably felt that his identity was every minute becoming confounded and confused by the exchange of fellow passengers for strangers that was constantly taking place. But all the time he was thinking, the cad of the omnibus—a policeman in disguise—knew that he held his victim like a rat in a cage. Without, however, apparently taking the slightest notice of him, he took one sixpence, gave change for a shilling, handed out this lady, stuffed in that one, until, arriving at the Bank, the guilty man, stooping as he walked toward the carriage door, descended the steps;—paid his fare;—crossed over to the Duke of Wellington's statue, where, pausing for a few moments anxiously to gaze around him, he proceeded to

the Jerusalem coffee house, thence over London Bridge to the Leopard coffee house in the borough, and finally to a lodging house in Scott's yard, Canon Street. He probably fancied that by making so many turns and doubles, he had not only effectually puzzled all pursuit, but that his appearance at so many coffee houses would assist him in proving an *alibi*; but whatever may have been his motives or his thoughts, he had scarcely entered his lodging, when the policeman—who, like a wolf, had followed him every step of the way—opening his door, very calmly said to him—the words no doubt were infinitely more appalling to him even than the scream that had been haunting him—'Hav'n't you just come from Slough?' The monosyllable 'No,' confusedly uttered in reply, substantiated his guilt. The policeman made him his prisoner; he was thrown into jail, tried, found guilty of wilful murder and—hanged. A few months afterward, we happened to be traveling by rail from Paddington to Slough, in a carriage filled with people, all strangers to one another. Like English travelers, they were all mute. For nearly fifteen minutes no one had uttered a single word, until a short-bodied, short-necked, short-nosed, exceeding respectable looking man in the corner, fixing his eyes on the apparently fleeting posts and rails of the electric telegraph, significantly nodded to us as he muttered aloud:—'Them's the cords that hung John Tawell.'

MR. LAWRENCE.—Self-made men are always worthy of being cited as examples for youth. We clip the following curious statement in reference to Mr. Lawrence, from an Agricultural Address recently delivered:

"If there is a youth in the land who aspires to the honor of representing this country at the Court of St. James, let him follow the example of our present appointed minister, selected for his sterling integrity, intelligence and virtue. A writer in Boston, speaking, of him, says: 'A poor, unknown and friendless boy,' (we use his own language) he entered the city which, since that time, his own experience has done so much to elevate, and his own munificence to adorn; and the first employment he was engaged in, he often told us, was that of a porter to his brother; and many a heavy load, said he, I often wheeled through the street in a hand-cart.

MUSIC.—How differently the same thing may be described, is well exemplified in the following quotation:

"Now the musician Hovers with nimble stick o'er the squeaking crowd, Tickling the dried guts of a mewling cat."—*Marston.*

"And anon a strain is heard—
Not wanting power to mitigate and swage,
With solemn touches, troubled thoughts, and chase
Anguish, and doubt, and fear, and sorrow, and pain,
From mortal and immortal minds."—*Milton.*

Fighting on Equal Terms.

I will tell you a little incident that occurred in Georgia many years ago. Judge T., a celebrated duellist, who had lost a leg, and who was known to be a dead shot, challenged Colonel D., a gentleman of great humor and attainments. The friends tried to prevent the meeting, but to no effect. The parties met on the ground, when Col. D. was asked if he was ready.

"No, sir," he replied.

"What are you waiting for, then?" inquired Judge T.'s second.

"Why, sir," said Colonel D., "I have sent my boy into the woods to hunt a bee gum to put my leg in, for I don't intend to give the judge any advantage over me. You see he has a wooden leg!"

The whole party roared with laughter, and the thing was so ridiculous that it broke up the fight. Colonel D. was afterwards told that it would sink his reputation.

"Well," he replied, "it can't sink me lower than a bullet can!"

"But," urged his friends, "the papers will be filled about you."

"Well," said he, "I would rather fill fifty papers than fill a coffin!"

No one ever troubled the Colonel after that.

AN APOLOGY.—When John Clark (Lord Eldon) was at the bar, he was remarkable for the *sang froid* with which he treated the judges. On one occasion, a junior counsel, on hearing their Lordships give judgment against his client, exclaimed that "he was surprised at such a decision!" This was construed into contempt of Court, and he was ordered to attend at the bar next morning. Fearful of the consequences, he consulted his friend John Clark, who told him to be perfectly at ease, for he would apologize for him in such a way that would avert any unpleasant result. Accordingly, when the name of the delinquent was called, John rose and coolly addressed the assembled tribunal: "I am very sorry, my lords, that my young friend has so far forgot himself as to treat your honorable bench with disrespect, he is extremely penitent, and you will kindly ascribe his unintentional insult to his ignorance. You must see at once that it did originate in that. He said he was surprised at the decision of your lordships! Now if he had not been very ignorant of what takes place at this court every day—had he known you but half so long as I have, he would not be surprised at any thing you did!"

CRIMES AND EDUCATION.—According to returns to Parliament, the commitments for crimes in an average of nine years in proportion to population, are as follows:

In Manchester (the most infidel city in the nation), one in 140; in London, one in 800; in all Ireland, one in 1600; and in Scotland (celebrated for learning and religion), one in 20,000!

The Legs of Insects.

The purposes for which the legs are put into requisition are, as will be easily guessed, for walking or running, for jumping, for climbing, and for swimming. Most surprising of all these respects is the degree of agility and swiftness with which it has pleased the Divine Creator to endow these insect organs. M. Delisle once observed a fly, only as large as a grain of sand, which ran three inches in half a second, and in that space made the enormous number of *five hundred and forty steps*. If a man were to be able to walk as fast in proportion to size, supposing his steps to measure two feet, he would, in the course of a minute, have run upward of *twenty miles*, a task far surpassing our express railroad engines, or the famous Seven League Boots recorded in the nursery fable. In leaping, also, insects far excel man, or any other animal whatever. The flea can leap two hundred times its own length; so also, can the locust. If a man were six feet long, and could leap as high and as far as one of these insects, he might stand near Bow Church in Cheapside, leap up into the air, over the top of St. Paul's cross, and alight at the bottom of Ludgate Hill; which would be something more wonderful than it has ever entered into the minds of the writers of fairy tales to conceive of. The insect called the frog-hopper can leap more than two hundred and fifty times its own length. Some spiders can leap a couple of feet upon their prey. The legs of insects that swim are generally peculiarly fitted for it, either by being expanded somewhat like an oar, or by having a dense fringe of hair upon it. The water beetles, after rising to the surface of the stream for a supply of fresh air, dive down to their watery home again, taking a clear silvery bubble along with them; and in this action they move with considerable rapidity their swimming legs, which are clothed with hairs. The water-boatman swims upon his back by means of his singularly formed legs. The little whirligig swims by means of its legs which are paddle-shaped.

By means, it may be, of some peculiar secretion which repels the water, some insects can actually walk upon its surface, and that as readily or more so than upon land. Those who know the pleasure of shooting over clear ice with polished skates, when it almost seems as if we were moving in the air, and no more condemned to earth, can imagine something of the delight these insects must experience, who can glide as swift as thought over the glassy surface of the brook. Sometimes the shape of the hind-legs is remarkably altered; and perhaps the most extraordinary instances of this in the whole insect world is the foreign insect which has been called the *Kangaroo*, beetle. The origin of this insect's curious title was derived from resemblance borne by its hind legs to those of the animal whose name it bears.

In some insects the legs fold upon each other, and are packed into a very small compass; this is particularly the case in a species of wood louse, which roll themselves up into balls precisely resembling beads or pills, as may be imagined from the following anecdote. A servant-maid of the great Swammerdam, while walking in the garden one day found a large number of round, black, shining beads, which were streaked with white bands and presented a very pretty and attractive appearance. Gathering a number of these in her hand, she thought she would convert them into a necklace, or, for aught we know, into a rosary, when, to her great surprise, the beads became animated as soon as ever they felt the point of the needle, with which she was about to thread them, and began to struggle actively to get away; not however too quickly for her; for with a violent scream, imagining the beads were bewitched, she ran into the house. Some of the beetle tribe thus fold up their legs, and roll themselves up so as to resemble little globular pebbles.

Life of an Insect.

HOW THE ELECTRIC EEL IS CAUGHT.—All other fishes fly the vicinity of these formidable eels. Even the fisherman angling from the high banks fears lest the damp line should convey the shock to him from a distance. Thus, in these regions, electric fire breaks forth from the bosom of the waters. The capture of the gymnoti affords a picturesque spectacle. Mules and horses are driven into a marsh which is closely surrounded by Indians, until the unwonted noise and disturbance induce the pugnacious fish to begin an attack. One sees them swimming about like serpents, and trying cunningly to glide under the bellies of the horses. Many of these are stunned by the force of the invisible blow; others, with manes standing on end, foaming with wild terror sparkling in their eyes, try to fly from the raging tempest. But the Indians, armed with long poles of bamboo, drive them back into the middle of the pool. Gradually the fury of the unequal strife begins to slacken. Like clouds which have discharged their electricity, the wearied fish begin to disperse; long repose and abundant food are required to replace the galvanic force which they have expended. Their shocks become gradually weaker and weaker. Terrified by the noise of the trampling horses, they timidly approach the bank, where they are wounded by harpoons, and cautiously drawn on shore by non-conductor pieces of dry wood.

Ingenuity of Birds.

Thrushes feed very much on snails, looking for them in mossy banks. Having frequently observed some broken snail shells near two projecting pebbles on a gravel walk, which had a hollow between them, I endeavored to discover the occasion of their being brought to that situation.

At last, I saw a thrush fly to the spot, with a snail shell in his mouth, which he placed between the two stones, and hammered at it with his beak till he had broken it, and was then able to feed on its contents. The bird must have discovered that he could not apply his beak with sufficient force to break the shell when it was rolling about, and he therefore found out and made use of a spot which would keep the shell in one position. When the lapwing wants to procure food, it seeks for a worm's cast, and stamps the ground by the side of it with its feet; somewhat in the same manner as I have often done when a boy, in order to procure worms for fishing. After doing this for a short time, the bird waits for the issue of the worm from its hole, who alarmed at the shaking of the ground, endeavors to make its escape, when it is immediately seized and becomes the prey of the ingenious bird. The lapwing also frequents the haunts of moles. These animals, when in pursuit of worms, on which they feed, frighten them, and the worm in attempting to escape, comes to the surface of the ground, where it is seized by the lapwing. The same mode of alarming his prey has been related of the gull.

Jesse's Gleanings in Natural History.

Romance of Rival Whaling.

It is easy to see that there must be a thrilling excitement in the adventurous chase of game like this, that has a tinge of the romantic to young and eager minds. There was romance surely, as well as reality, in a whaling feat I have read of, that came off in Delego Bay, South Africa, a smooth nook of the ocean much frequented a few years ago by whalers and ships from different nations. A mammoth whale rose and was observed in those still waters at the same moment, and about equidistant from an American and an English ship. From both the ships, boats were lowered, manned, and off in an instant with the speed of the wind.

The English, at first ahead, perceiving their rivals gaining on them, wisely bore wide off from their common game, in order to keep the Americans out of reach of the whale. But when the two boats were nearly abreast, the English of course inside, one of the American sailors sprang from his seat, and with extraordinary agility hurled his ponderous harpoon right over the English boat. Thrown with unwonted force and precision, it struck the monster in a vital part, and was buried to the socket.

The English boat, thus strangely intercepted and balked of its prize, shrunk back under the warp of its Yankee rival. The waves soon crimsoned with blood, and the daring American took possession of the mastered Leviathan, while Delego Bay echoed and re-echoed with shouts of applause.—*Cheever's Whale and his Captors.*

He who enlarges his heart restricts his tongue.

Be Kind to the Loved Ones at Home.

Be kind to thy father, for when thou wast young,
Who loved thee so fondly as he?
He caught the first accents that fell from thy tongue,
And joined in thy innocent glee.
Be kind to thy father, for now he is old,
His locks intermingled with gray;
His footsteps are feeble, once fearless and bold;
Thy father is passing away.

Be kind to thy mother, for lo! on her brow,
May traces of sorrow be seen;
Oh! well may'st thou cherish and comfort her now,
For loving and kind has she been.
Remember thy mother—for thee she will pray,
As long as God giveth her breath;
With accents of kindness, then, cheer her lone way,
E'en to the dark valley of death.

Be kind to thy brother—his heart will have dearth,
If the smile of thy joy be withdrawn;
The flowers of feeling will fade at their birth,
If the dew of affection be gone.

Be kind to your brother—whenever you are;
The love of a brother shall be
An ornament purer and richer by far,
Than pearls from the depth of the sea.

Be kind to thy sister—not many may know,
The depth of true sisterly love;
The wealth of the ocean lies fathoms below
The surface that sparkles above.
Thy kindness shall bring to thee many sweet hours,
And blessings thy pathway to crown;
Affection shall weave thee a garland of flowers,
More pleasant than wealth or renown.

The Thirty Pieces of Silver.

Among the legends of the early ages of Christianity, is one respecting the Thirty Pieces of Silver, which Judas received for betraying his master, and brought back to the priests, when he saw Jesus was condemned; these pieces, which the priests would not receive because they said "it is the price of blood," and which they could not restore to the public treasury, because it would be defiled by them; these thirty pieces of silver were employed to buy a field to bury strangers in, and called "The Field of Blood." This fatal and cursed silver is not, according to the legend, a common and ordinary coin. It had its origin and fatality. When Cain fled after the murder of Abel, his sons invented the arts, those instruments and punishments of the passions of man, and Tubalcain, the eldest son of Cain, discovered the art of casting metals. It was he who struck those thirty cursed pieces which at first paid the brothers of Joseph when they sold him to the Egyptian merchants, and which down through the ages, serving for I know not how many treasons and crimes, have reached at last—becoming each day more cursed and fatal—the hands of Judas for whose execrable perfidy they were the reward. The mysterious predestination to these pieces of silver, which passed thus from Cain to Judas—this price of the blood of all the just—forged by the son of the first murderer on earth—all this is great and beautiful; this contains also a great moral idea—for there are few great political inventions which do

not contain some great moral lessons. These thirty pieces of silver of Judas, this fatal money, has had its use in history of all mankind; these pieces do not belong merely to the history of Joseph or Jesus Christ; they are, so to speak, Satan's treasury upon earth. When the Maid of Orleans was sold to the English by the Burgundians, it was these thirty pieces of Judas's silver that England paid for her blood.

*Paris paper.***The Jack Knife.**

A ship was driven out of her course, and cast away within sight of an unknown coast. All on board might have escaped in the boats, though rather crowded, but one of the passengers, on their refusing to admit his trunk in any boat, remained in the ship to unfasten it and get out his pocket book, which contained notes to the amount of £20,000. This he thought would not detain him a moment, and he requested them to wait, but in the hurry and confusion of the moment, he could not immediately recollect what he had done with the key of the trunk. Having found it at last and secured the money, he perceived to his dismay that every boat was out of sight, while the ship was falling apart, and suddenly he found himself in the sea. Catching at some article that was floating by, he clung to it almost unconsciously, not relaxing his hold even when his senses were failing. Fortunately he was floated to land, and when he revived, he found himself lying on the beach. As soon as his strength returned, he ascended an eminence, but could see no sign of the wreck or boats, or of any human creature. But as he was leaning despondingly against a tree, he was suddenly startled by being slapped on the shoulder, while a voice to his ear exclaimed "what cheer, my hearty?" Turning around he gladly recognized one of the crew, and inquired what had become of the rest?

"Why, I don't know, but I suppose they are safe by this time, but I have seen nothing of them."

"Were you with them in the boats?"

"No, I stayed on board to the last."

"And so did I, though I was not aware of your being aboard. I hope you succeeded as well as I did, in saving your property."

"I had nothing to save but a jack knife and a plug of tobacco—both safe enough in my trousers pockets."

"Then why did you not think of saving yourself at once?"

"No, I could not think of leaving the ship as long as the planks held together. She could not say I was not true to the last. But come, comrade, let us see what kind of quarters we have got into."

They traveled some distance without any sight of a habitation. Necessity quickened their ingenuity, they were successful occasionally, catching fish, oysters, or birds, in all which the sail-

or's jack knife proved of invaluable service, in preparing the proper snares and weapons, in opening the oysters, cutting up, or cleaning the fish or birds—above all, in striking a light to make a fire for the purpose of cookery. Once, also, when they were attacked by a wild beast, the sailor by a prompt use of his jack knife saved their lives.

They had lived in this manner for some months when arriving at the opposite side of the island, they found it inhabited by savages, who conducted them to their king. The gentleman, anxious to conciliate their copper skinned majesty, produced a five hundred pound bank note, and politely offered it to his acceptance. The king examined it with some curiosity, applied it to his nose and tongue, and being satisfied that it was not good to eat, returned it with contempt. The gentleman soon found out that his twenty thousand pounds could not procure him the smallest consideration. The sailor, on the contrary, in a few days became a personage of great importance, for the many services which he was enabled to render with his jack knife, among a people where iron was unknown. They liberally supplied all their wants, and his rich friend was glad to profit by his bounty.

One day, as they were attending the king, on an eminence overlooking the sea, they descried a distant sail evidently passing the island. They kindled a bonfire and hoisted signals, but they did not succeed in attracting notice.

"If we only had a boat; exclaimed the sailor I think we could get within hail, and she does not stand far out, though it is plain she intends to pass without touching this way."

The gentleman produced his twenty thousand pounds, and offered it to the king in exchange for a canoe, but his majesty rejected the roll of paper, and turned to the sailor with a single word, "knife."

The bargain was instantly closed, the jack knife was received by the king with no less delight than was experienced by the Englishmen as they jumped into the canoe. By dint of hard paddling, and a favorable current, they got within hail, and were taken aboard of the ship, which proved to be an English vessel homeward bound.

As they came within sight of the white cliffs, the gentleman took the sailor apart, and handed him two notes, which amounted to a thousand pounds, and said: "You must not refuse to accept this, for you have done more than twenty times as much as I could have done. I trust you may find these bills, one day or other as useful as your jack knife has been. I have learned by this time that a man's wealth is to be measured, not by the extent of his possessions, but by the use he can make of that he possesses."

A Conundrum.

Is there a word in English which contains all the vowels? *Unquestionably.*

Farmer Blake's First Lesson.

When I first went to live up at the Grange, Farmer Blake took me into the fields to talk to me. I was young then, but quite old enough to understand what he said.

"My lad," said the farmer, "if you are to learn farming, and we are to go on tidily together, either I must teach you or you must teach me.—Now, as I happen to know more than you, it will be but reasonable that I should take the lead, and it will be time enough when you are the wiser of the two to alter the plan."

Farmer Blake said this in a kind tone of voice, but the firmness with which he spoke, convinced me at once that his word was to be law.

"You have picked up a little knowledge at the school house," said he, "and now you must try to pick up a little at the Grange Farm.—The first lesson that I shall give you to learn, is this—a little at a time, and go on. Almost all great things are done on this principle. The rain from the skies comes down in little drops, and the snow comes down in little flakes; and yet both of them, by going on, cover the face of the ground.

"Look here," said Farmer Blake, stopping at a bush, on which a spider was weaving his web, "see how the little creature is employed. First he fastens one line, and then another, without wasting his time by idling between, and it will not be very long, I am thinking, before he catches his fly. The weaving spider is following the rule—a little at a time, and go on."

What Farmer Blake said appeared so very clear to me, that I wondered the same thing had not occurred before. But the farmer seemed determined to impress his first lesson deeply in my mind.

On turning round a corner we came suddenly upon a woodman, who was felling an elm tree, and the dry chips flew around him as he dealt his lusty stroke with his axe. "Oh, thought I, 'the farmer will be at me again now, about his first lesson;' but no, not a word did he speak. I saw, however, that his eye was now and then fixed upon me. Though the woodman did not appear to get on very fast, yet, by repeated strokes he had made a great gash more than half through the trunk of the tree; and, not long after, down came the elm with a loud crash.

Farmer Blake walked on in silence, and I was silent too; when, suddenly, he said to me.—"Well, my lad, what are you thinking of?" "I was thinking, sir," said I, "that the woodman has brought down the tree by doing a little at a time, and going on." "Just as I expected," he replied; "and now I see that you have learned my first lesson."

When left to myself I thought over every word that Farmer Blake had spoken, and felt sure, not only that he was the wisest man I knew, but also that I could not do a better thing than attend to his remarks. In the course of that day

I could hardly look around without seeing some object which brought before me Farmer Blake's first lesson. A bricklayer was building a wall near a cottage; a shepherd with his crook, was climbing a high hill; and two men were filling a cart with gravel. By laying a brick at a time, and going on, the brick layer would build the wall; by taking a step at a time, and going on, the shepherd would get to the top of the hill; and by throwing in a spadeful at a time, and going on, the cart would be filled.

Many have I known who were not satisfied with doing a little at a time, they must needs do a great deal, and haste to be rich; but they fell into snares, and their riches did them no good. And some have I known who were very zealous in holy things, but they did not go on. Oh, it is an excellent thing to feel that we are dependent upon our Heavenly Father, for all we have, even our daily bread. I felt myself much wiser than I was before.

I lived many years at the Grange, and have great reason to be thankful for the many useful lessons that the honest farmer taught me; but not a single day, of all these years, is better remembered by me than the first day that I entered on the farm, and not a single lesson is more deeply impressed on my mind than the very first that he taught me.

I know that Farmer Blake, in teaching me his first lesson, intended to apply it especially to farming; but I have learned to apply it to other things. Thousands would have been benefited had they understood and practised the lesson with humility—a little at a time, and go on.

Lord Brougham.

BY GEORGE ALNUTT, ESQ.

"A man so various, that he seemed to be,
Not one but all mankind's epitome.—DRYDEN.

Lord Brougham is certainly one of the most gifted and extraordinary men of modern times. His intellectual powers and resources are of the most affluent description—vigorous, versatile and various. Of chameleon genius, his mental qualities, his political principles, and even the very elements of his character seem to change according to the subject that for the time occupies his attention and engrosses his powers. There is scarcely a topic of literature, a subject of policy, or a scheme of philanthropy, that has not been sustained by his advocacy, or encountered his hostility. Theology, jurisprudence, science, criticism and politics, have each occupied his attention and called forth his energies. He can speak and write on any and on every subject, with a copiousness and facility, as though each distinct branch of his multifarious studies had been the employment of a life. As a barrister, he acquired a celebrity of the highest kind, especially by the amazing powers which the trial of the late Queen Caroline served to elicit.

In the House of Commons he stood alone.—Here, indeed, was his appropriate sphere—the arena of his noblest triumphs. The grave formality of the House of Lords, its dull etiquette, and the few exciting influences which it possesses in comparison with the other House, are less suited to the vagrant qualities of his mind, and the bold, dashing, reckless eloquence which he pours forth, than was the scene of his earlier exhibitions. It is amongst the representatives of the people that Henry Brougham, the unflinching advocate of reform, the stern denouncer of intolerance, the heroic vindicator of the oppressed, and the unwearied advocate of popular education, appears invested with his proudest honors. His removal to the House of Lords, therefore, though a necessary consequence of his elevation to the chancellorship, is matter of regret; and, we are much mistaken, if he has not himself often and heartily wished that with the seals of office he could have put off his coronet.

His conduct in the Court of Chancery was an anomaly in its history—a prodigy at which the bar stood aghast! Long accustomed to the drawling and dilatory, but usually correct decisions of Lord Eldon, they were astounded at the spirit with which Lord Brougham proceeded with his decisions, who, with Herculean arms, literally swept away the suits out of that Augean stable; and notwithstanding the outcry that has been raised against his precipitancy, but few appeals have been made against his fiat.

As a public speaker, addressing a popular audience, Lord Brougham is probably unequalled. His reasonings convince the understanding—his powers of wit, fancy and imagination, bewilder and captivate the mind—his words peal in thunder, and lightning flashes from his thoughts.—He can be as playful as the lamb among flowers; terrible as a tigress robbed of her whelps; insipidated bitters distil from his sarcasms; his reproofs wither whom they touch—like a magician, he stands in a circle of his own, and all shrink from the enchanted ring; and his luckless adversary! with what relentless severity does he treat him! he twines himself around him like the boa constrictor, and mercilessly crushes him in his many coils, regardless of the writhings and shrieks of his victim. As specimens of declamation, his speeches on slavery, delivered at the public meetings held in London, on this subject, though not equal in reasoning to the plain remarks of Mr. Hunt on slavery as it is in England, are probably some of the finest specimens of modern oratory. For energy and force they were Demosthenean.

With powers and attainments of so exalted a description, the idiosyncrasy of this great man is darkened with qualities injurious to its perfect symmetry, and lamentably opposed to the extensive benefits which he seems formed for conferring on the age. A restless vanity, a weak jealousy of men and of powers unspeakably beneath

him, an overweening sensitiveness to supposed injuries, a variableness fleeting as the winds, all concur to blemish his character, and to impair his usefulness. Connected with no party, fixed in no certain course, no one can calculate with the least certainty on the side which he will take—now coquetting with the tories, anon flirting with the radicals, but too generally, alas! opposed to his ancient friends with whom he long fought the battles of the people side by side, but whom he strangely deserted in the hour of victory.—Claimed by none, and feared by all, he moves in his solitary and vast orbit, the blazing and eccentric comet of the political sky.

As yet, his energies are unimpaired; and most earnestly do we hope that he will live many years to retrieve by his upright and consistent advocacy of enlightened, liberal and patriotic measures, the consequences of his past wayward course; lest, like Pandora, he should be only gifted with all imaginable excellencies to let loose a flood of mischiefs on mankind.

N. O. Miscellany.

Longitudinal Rivers.

LIEUTENANT MAURY'S PAPERS.

A river that runs east or west crosses no parallel of latitude, consequently, as it flows towards the sea, it does not change its climate. The crops that are cultivated at its mouth are grown also at its sources, and from one end to the other of it there is no variety of productions; it is all wheat and corn, or wine, or oil, or some other staple. Assorted cargoes, therefore, cannot be made up from the produce which such a river brings down to market.

On the other hand, a river that runs north or south crosses parallels of latitude. Its climate is changed at every turn and as the traveller descends it he sees, every day, new agricultural staples abounding. Such a river bears down to the sea a variety of productions, some of which one or another of the nations of the earth is sure to want, and for each one will send to the markets at its mouth, or the port whence they are distributed over the world. The assortments of merchandise, afforded by such a river, are the life of commerce. They give it energy, activity, and scope. Such a river is the Mississippi, and the Mississippi is the only such river in the world.

Scenes on the Upper Nile.

Blackwood's Magazine, in a review of Werner's 'Narrative of a Voyage up the Nile,' furnishes the following description of some of the strange scenes passed through:

'We can conceive few things more exciting than such a voyage as Mr. Werner has accomplished and recorded. Starting from the outposts of civilization, he sailed into the very heart of Africa, up a stream whose upper waters then, for the first time, were furrowed by vessels larger than a savage's canoe—a stream of such gigantic

proportions that its width, at a thousand miles from the sea, gave it the aspect of a lake rather than of a river. The brute creation were in proportion to the magnitude of the water course.—The hippopotamus reared his huge snout above the surface, and wallowed in the gullies that on either hand run down the stream; enormous crocodiles gaped along the shore; elephants played in herds upon the pastures; the tall giraffe stalked among the lofty palms; snakes thick as trees, lay coiled in the slimy swamps and ant-hills, ten feet high, towered above the rushes. Along the thickly peopled banks, hordes of savages showed themselves, gazing in wonder at the strange ships, and making ambiguous gestures, variously construed by the adventurers as signs of friendship or hostility. Alternately sailing and towing, as the wind served or not; constantly in sight of natives, but rarely communicating with them; often cut off for days from land by interminable fields of tangled weeds, the expedition pursued its course through innumerable perils, guarded from the most of them by the liquid rampart on which it floated. Lions looked hungry, and savages shook their spears, but neither showed a disposition to swim and board the flotilla.

Health.

HORACE MANN thus discourses of Health in his new book, just about to be issued from the press of Ticknor, Read, and Fields: "Appetite is Nicholas the First, and the noble faculties of mind and heart are Hungarian captives. Were we to see a rich banker exchanging eagles for coppers by tale, or a rich merchant bartering silk for serge by the pound, we should deem them worthy of an epithet in the vocabulary of folly. Yet the same men buy pains whose prime cost is greater than the amplest fund of natural enjoyment. Their purveyor and market man bring them home head-aches, and indigestion, and neuralgia, by hampers full. Their butler bottles up stone, and gout, and liver complaint, falsely labelling them sherry, or madeira, or port, and the stultified masters have not wit enough to see through the cheat. The mass of society look with envy upon the epicure who, day by day, for four hours of luxurious eating, suffer twenty hours of sharp aching; who pays a full price for a hot supper, and is so pleased with the bargain that he throws in a sleepless and tempestuous night as a gratuity. English factory children have received the commiseration of the world, because they were scourged to work eighteen hours out of the twenty-four; but there is many a theoretic republican who is a harsher Pharaoh to his stomach than this; who allows it no more resting time than he does his watch; who gives it no Sunday, no holiday, no vacation in any sense. Our pious ancestors enacted a law that suicides should be buried where four roads meet, and that a cartload of stones should be thrown upon the body. Yet, when gentlemen or ladies commit suicide, not by the cord or

steel, but by turtlesoup or lobster-salad, they may be buried in consecrated ground, and under the auspices of the church, and the public are not ashamed to read an epitaph upon their tombstones false enough to make the marble blush. Were the barbarous old law now in force that punished the body of the suicide for the offence which his soul had committed, we should find many a Mount Auburn at the cross-roads."

Original Letter of Dr. Franklin.

The Boston Post is publishing some original letters of Dr. Franklin. The following is advice to a young lady, with whom a very chaste correspondence appears to have been undergone:

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 16, 1775.

Dear Katy:—Your favor of the 25th June came to hand, but the 23d September, just three months after it was written. I had two weeks before written you a long chat and sent it to the care of your brother Ward. I hear you are now in Boston, gay and lovely as usual. Let me give you some fatherly advice: Kill no more pigeons than you can eat. Be a good girl, and don't forget your catechize; go constantly to meeting, or church, till you get a good husband; then stay at home and nurse the children and live like a christian. Spend your spare hours in sober whist, prayers, or learning to cipher. You must practice *addition* to your husband's estate by industry and frugality. *Subtraction* of all unnecessary expenses. *Multiplication*—he will soon make you mistress of it. As to *division*, I say with brother Paul, "Let there be no division among ye;" but as your good sister Hubbard, (ny love to her) is well acquainted with the *rule of two*, I hope you will become as expert in the *rule of three*, that when I have again the pleasure of seeing you I may find you like my grape vine, surrounded with clusters, plump, juicy, blushing, pretty little rogues, just like their mamma. Adieu, the bell rings and I must go among the grave ones and talk politics.

B. F.

Monarchy in Exile.

An English writer, alluding to the family of Louis Phillippe, in exile, says there is something interesting in the picture of a royal family living *en bourgeoisie*, a king sitting with spectacles on his forehead, and his newspaper on his knee, playfully alluding to observations whose fallacy alone he can demonstrate; a queen busily engaged amid the toils of a work table, around which princesses of every European royalty are seated, gaily chatting over their embroidery, or listening while an amusing book is read out by a husband or a brother; even an American would be struck by such a view of monarchy. The Duc de Nemours is the least possessing of the princes; his deafness, too, assists the impression of his coldness and austerity, while the too studied courtesy of the Prince de Joinville towards Englishmen, is the reverse of an amicable demonstration

THE SCHOOL FRIEND, AND OHIO SCHOOL JOURNAL.

CINCINNATI, APRIL 1, 1850.

To our Patrons and Friends.

In consequence of the numerous engagements of PROF. J. RAY, he has withdrawn from the Editorial department of this paper. It will be conducted by the other editors, assisted by the occasional contributions of experienced educators. The editors wish it to be distinctly understood, that they are the authors of no school books, nor have, directly or indirectly, any interest in any school books whatever; and further, that they will review any work, when, in their judgment, the interests of education shall demand them to do so.

It likewise gives them much pleasure to state, that Messrs. Winthrop B. Smith & Co., by whose pecuniary aid the paper has been sustained, although extensively engaged in the publication of school books, have expressed to them but the *single desire* that the "SCHOOL FRIEND" should be conducted *purely* with reference to promoting the great cause of family and school education, and that under no circumstances would they be willing that the editors should favor the school books published by them, *because* of their being the publishers of the paper.

We hope you will excuse us for addressing you on the subject of increasing the circulation of this paper. We are induced to ask your attention to it, because you are acquainted with its present labors, and we hope sympathize with us in our highest aspirations. Its small income will not sanction the employment of an independent agent. We have flung ourselves into the educational movement with the strongest assurance, that other friends of the cause will not permit us to fall for want of proper support.

Many object to the paper because it is connected with a house which publishes school books, and are unjustly induced to suppose that the paper and its editors are the mere tools of the publishers. The manner of its publication is now a matter of necessity. It does not by any means support itself. It would die of starvation were it left alone. The history of former school papers, at Akron, —at Columbus,—at Madison, Ia.,—at Louisville, Ky., besides others in this city, and in other places, is the proof. It advertises the school books of many publishing houses besides its own, and this only makes up a partial remuneration to the publishers for their expense in supporting it. This ought to form no objection, and can form none to an unprejudiced mind. The teachers of the West have the ability to examine books and pass judgment on them without foreign assistance. It is the organ of a publishing house only so far as *advertisements* are concerned. Its very existence is due to an honorable and praiseworthy arrangement on the part of the publishers, which enables them, not only to advertise books, (which they might just as well have done through other papers) but also, by the same means, to place within reach of those interested in education, much valuable information which they would not obtain in any other way.

That the editors are the tools of any publishers is an unjust and malicious aspersion. They are devoted head and hand to the cause of education, and are free to discuss any plans whatever connected with the educational movements of the day. When other means of communicating with our fellow teachers went slowly down, we seized upon this, and that with the purest intent. While many, whose approbation we covet, censure us for our present position, they give us the alternative of laboring for education in our present circumstances, to which there are few objections, or of folding our arms in idleness, to which there are many. We must

do something. We ought not and cannot remain listless spectators of the vast operations now going on in the profession to which we belong. The mighty heaving of eastern educational movement has already rolled down the hither slope of the Alleghanies. The whole of our magnificent valley is filled with the commotion, and the trembling of its waves is already seen glimmering and dying away along the most distant shores of western civilization.

We notice, on examining our list of subscribers, that in many large towns the number is quite too small. We trust that each one who receives this number will exert his influence among his friends and acquaintances to obtain as many new subscribers as possible. Our circulation should be greatly enlarged. It can be easily done, if our friends will use a little exertion.

Union Schools.

CONCLUDED.

4. As they are susceptible of a division into departments, or grades, they admit of a more economical classification of the pupils, and thus allow the teachers more time for oral and collateral instruction, and for pointing out the practical bearing and uses of the subjects taught.

5. They prevent, in a great degree, the unhappy consequences resulting from the numerous errors which young and inexperienced teachers are so liable to commit; for, instead of depending upon a sort of guessing process in devising their plans, arranging and conducting their exercises, as is too often the case, when they operate alone, without any one to guide their efforts, they would, in a "Union school," be furnished with a programme of exercises by the principal teacher, and be daily enlightened by him as to the proper manner of conducting them; and thus would all the pupils receive at the very outset of their course, accurate and thorough instruction.

6. They afford facilities for carrying out in school keeping, or rather of exemplifying, the truth of that important maxim, to which a celebrated general of antiquity referred, when he said, that an army of sheep with a lion for a leader, was preferable to an army of lions with a sheep for a leader; for one competent teacher with several inexperienced ones under him, will accomplish vastly more than an equal number of moderately qualified teachers, operating in separate schools, without any enlightened supervision.

7. They tend to prevent the manifold evils resulting from short sessions, and from a frequent change of teachers; for though changes should take place in the subordinate departments, yet the district being able to pay the principal such a salary as would secure his services permanently, he would of course remain, and prevent any change in the general plan and operations of the school. This is a consideration that should not be overlooked by parents and school committees; for it saves to the pupil much valuable time, and to the parent much expense.

It is hardly possible to overrate the evils consequent upon a frequent change of teachers, for hardly any two teachers have the same methods, and the one who succeeds has no opportunity to become acquainted with the condition of the school, or the methods of his predecessor, by actual observation. The one has departed, before the other arrives. He enters the school a stranger to the children and the parents, unacquainted with the relative propensity and aptitude, the disposition and habits of the different scholars, ignorant of the course pursued by former teachers, and with the prospect, probably, of retiring himself at the end of three or four months. The progress of the school must, therefore, be delayed, while he is learning his position; the work which was begun by his predecessor will be arrested, in many cases, perhaps, be performed over again, and thus

the children will often spend the whole period of his term, in retracing their steps in a new book, or according to a new plan. Under such a state of things, there will be movement, but little real progress. Scarcely less will be the injurious consequences resulting from frequent interruption in the session of the school, and from long vacations, which render it necessary to dwell much longer on the different subjects of study.

8. They prevent the necessity of private schools, and thus bring into the same school the children of all ranks and classes of people, where they can be educated together, and be prepared in some good degree, to act together as citizens. They afford parents the opportunity also, of educating their children near home, where their morals and health will be constantly under parental supervision and watchful solicitude.

9. "Union schools," admitting of a thorough classification of the scholars, and of a subdivision into departments, occupying separate rooms, many useful exercises can be introduced into the department composed of none but small children, admirably adapted to interest and improve them, which, in a school composed in part of large scholars, would be quite out of place. They obviate many faults, remedy many defects of the old system; in which the prominent ones were, that the pupil was advanced too soon, took up many branches before he was prepared for them, and pursued too great a number at the same time. The result was, his mind was distracted, no one of his studies was thoroughly mastered; one text-book having been dispatched, another, perhaps on the same subject, was introduced, and the pupil was in effect, occupied during most of his school life, in retracing ground over which he had already traveled,—doing it however in such a manner, that his interest was deadened, his powers of discrimination impaired, and his mind fixed, and almost petrified, in habits of torpid and vacant listlessness.

10. They render it practicable to employ a greater number of female teachers, especially in the winter season, and to assign to them a more appropriate sphere of operation, and thus secure to young children, when most they need it, the genial influence of female care and culture. Females make better teachers for young children than the other sex, for they have more talent for conversational teaching, more quickness of perception in seizing difficulties by which the mind of a child is embarrassed, and more mildness of manner in removing them. They are more ingenious in introducing little devices calculated to animate and encourage children, and to relieve the monotony of school exercises. They attach more importance to the improvement of morals, are more attentive to cleanliness and good manners than men; they have a peculiar faculty of awakening the sympathies of children, and inspiring them with a desire to excel. Possessing warmer affections, higher purity, more delicate taste, greater confidence in human nature, more untiring zeal in behalf of the objects they love, they will find out where a child's mind is quickest; they will follow it in its movements more readily, and if it has gone astray, they will lead it back into the right path more gently and kindly than men. Surely woman is the natural guardian, the intended guide, forechosen by Providence, for children of a tender age.

An Exercise in Mental Arithmetic.

The following exercise was suggested to us as one of remarkable utility, in inducing intense activity and concentration of mind, and in making pupils rapid and independent calculators. Our trial of it has been very successful, and we recommend it. It should be used for a few moments, as a daily drill, by all the classes studying arithmetic. If the teacher is energetic and persevering, the most beneficial, and sometimes astonishing results can be produced. The exercise may be varied so as to meet the circumstances of classes differ-

ing widely as to acquirement and mental discipline. Nothing can be done without the most undivided attention of every scholar in the class. The teacher can commence by saying to the class, "Take 4—multiply by 7—subtract 3—divide by 5—multiply by 6—add 12—divide by 7—multiply by 8—subtract 40—what is the result? The only things apparent during the exercise are the fixed eyes and wrapt attention of the eager reckoners, and the rapid enunciation of the teacher until the last requirement, when 8, bursts from all who have been able to keep up in the calculation. The teacher should be careful to allow only just time enough for quite rapid thinking, even if one half the class are left behind. These simple operations may be drawn out to any length deemed necessary. Powers and roots may be included, and with a little practice, a class may produce absolute amazement in one unacquainted with the exercise. Thus, "Take 8—multiply by 4—add 4—take the square root—multiply by 12—add 9—square root—multiply by 3—cube root—multiply by 5—subtract 14—multiply by 225—square root—subtract 14—multiply by 144—square root—what is the result? The square of mixed numbers containing the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ can be obtained by taking the product of the integer and the next higher number and adding the square of the fraction, thus, the square of $7\frac{1}{2}$ is $7 \times 8 + \frac{1}{4} = 56\frac{1}{4}$. The square roots of such perfect squares can be obtained by dividing the integer into two consecutive factors, and adding the square root of the fraction to the less factor, thus, $72\frac{1}{4} = 8 \times 9 + \frac{1}{4}$, the square root of which is $8\frac{1}{2}$, &c. Tables of money, weights, time, measures, &c., distances, dates, &c., &c., may be introduced, refreshing the memories of the scholars, and creating as vivid and delightful an excitement as a pupil is capable of feeling. Thus, "Take the number of weeks in a month, multiply by the number of shillings in a pound—divide by the number of drachms in an ounce—plus one half—square it—minus 30—multiply by the number of square inches in a square foot—square root—add $24\frac{1}{4}$ —square root—what result? If two pupils disagree in the answer, ask one to go through the exercise aloud, thus, take the number of weeks in a month, 4—multiply by the number of shillings in a pound, 80—divide by the number of drachms in an ounce, 5—plus one half— $5\frac{1}{2}$ —square it, $30\frac{1}{4}$ —minus 30, $\frac{1}{4}$ —multiply by the number of square inches in a square foot—36—square root—6—add $24\frac{1}{4}$ — $30\frac{1}{4}$ —square root— $5\frac{1}{2}$. The teacher must exercise all his ingenuity to render the exercise interesting by variety.

Grammatical Difficulties.

"There is no prospect of his being a good scholar."

The parsing of the italicized words in the above sentence is requested. Surely our correspondent has sent us the very sentence, upon which, above all others, "doctors disagree;" for at least four methods of parsing the word "scholar" are authorized by modern grammars. Gould, Brown, Wells, and Weld would construe *scholar* in the possessive case after "of being," "his" being in the possessive before it, with which it is put in apposition.

Bullion would parse it in the objective case indefinite after "being." To justify this construction, he introduces such sentences as the following, to-wit: "He was not sure of its being me." "Its being me needs make no difference." Noble Butler regards words in such construction, as in the nominative case after "being;" insisting that a noun or pronoun after the infinitive, or participle of intransitive or passive verb, is the predicate nominative, except when the infinitive has an objective case before it; and he contends that the sentence quoted by Dr. Bullion, "He was not sure of its being me," ought to be, "He is not sure of its being I." Samuel S. Greene, in his Analysis of sentences, would construe the single word "scholar" in the nominative case after "being," and the combination, "being a scholar," in

the objective case, calling it a verbal noun, completing the relation of the preposition "of." For a complete exposition of the whole matter, we refer our correspondent to the grammars of Brown, page 162, obs. 3; Wells, page 129, Rem. 8; Bullion, page 82; Butler, pages 146 and 160, Rem. 5; and Green's Analysis of sentences, pages, 169 and 170.

We are inclined to parse "his" in the possessive case limiting and governed by, the combination, "being a good scholar," "being" a participial noun in the objective case, and "scholar" the predicate nominative after it, and the whole constituting the object of the preposition.

ITEMS.

Our Board of Education are taking measures for erecting a building to accommodate the Central High School. The rooms now occupied, are entirely too small to accommodate the applicants expected at the next annual examination.

The members of our State Legislature, during their late visit to our city, made many welcome calls upon the public schools.

MISS ATKINS, the present preceptress of the Columbus High School, is expected soon to become connected with the Cincinnati High School.

The pupils of the Ninth Street School, under the charge of Mr. Guilford and Miss Palmer, and Mr. Aiken, music teacher, gave a concert of vocal music at the Melodeon, a short time since. The effort was highly successful. The proceeds went to purchase a library for the school.

FRIEND GOLDRICK, of Brownsville, will please accept our thanks for sending us ten subscribers. The accompanying communication is quite interesting, but too long. Your energy and activity ought to give you a fine school. We should like to visit it. Please give us permission to publish extracts from your communication.

By a late change in the school laws, relating to the blacks of our city, their schools have been placed on the same basis, and enjoy the same privileges as those of the whites. Three of their schools are now in operation. Three colored gentlemen were lately examined by the Board of Examiners, and, we understand, drew their white brethren completely into the shade.

HON. T. F. KING, State School Superintendent of New Jersey, sends us his report for the year ending 1849. Pupils in attendance, 70,000. Expenditures \$75,000. He advises the establishment of a school for the reformation of juvenile delinquents, like that in Massachusetts.

"Lake Superior," by Louis Agassiz, is soon to be published by some Boston house. The field is a most interesting one, and the abilities and acquirements of the author, are well calculated to afford a fine treat to the lover of geography, geology, and kindred sciences.

Alonzo Gray, author of Gray's Chemistry, has just sent out a Philosophy.

The Quakers have come down on Macaulay, in a pamphlet of two hundred pages, for his treatment of Penn in his History of England.

One teacher in this city, lately called on his pupils to know how many could stand up alone, and sing a song from the singing book used in the school. Fifteen answered in the affirmative. Solos, duets, and general exercises in singing, are daily performed there, we understand.

Our Board of Education are now empowered to appoint a City Superintendent of Common Schools.

At the late Massachusetts Association of Teachers, it was Resolved, "That it is the duty of Teachers to direct the public mind to the relations of the Common School system to our social and civil organization by means of the public press;" and also, "That a committee of five be appointed to petition the General Court to enact a law upon the subject of Truancy."

DR. LOCKE, Lecturer on Chemistry, in the Ohio Medical College in this city, has invented a Galvanometer, so sensitive, as to detect the currents of electricity developed by the heat of the thumb, applied to a small Thermo-Electric Battery.

The School Superintendent of Michigan has been set upon by some discontented ones for his selection of school books. He comes out gallantly against them in a circular nine columns long.

The common schools of Marietta, are about to have a superintendent.

Scraping the feet at the door, and wiping them on the Mats.

This should be insisted on as one of the most obvious items in the code of cleanliness. It is not only indispensable to the decent appearance of a school room, but, if neglected, a large portion of soil is carried in on the feet, which, in the course of the day, is ground to powder and a liberal portion inhaled at the nostrils, and otherwise deposited in the system to its serious detriment. Besides, if the habit of neglecting this at school be indulged, it is practiced elsewhere; and the child entering whatsoever place he may, shop, store, or drawing-room, carries along with him his usual complement of mud and dirt; and the unscrapped and unwiped feet are welcome nowhere, among persons a single grade above the quadruped race.

I may be told, it is a matter little attended to by adult persons of both sexes. To which I would reply in the language of Polonius,

"'Tis true—'t is pity,
And pity 'tis—'t is true."

But this, instead of being an argument in favor of the non-observance of the wholesome rule in our schools, only points more emphatically to the duty of teachers in relation to it, for when, unless during the school days, are such habits to be corrected and better ones established?

I am fully aware of the difficulty of carrying rules like this into execution, even among children double the age of those who form the schools of some who hear me; and I do not forget how much this difficulty is increased by the tender age, and consequently greater thoughtlessness, of most of the pupils of schools usually taught by females; but still much may be done by proclaiming the rule, and placing at the school entrance one of the elder scholars, to remind others of it and see that it is observed, until the *cleanly habit* be established. In one school, the rule has grown into so general observance, the discovery of mud on the stairs or entry immediately leads to the inquiry, whether any *stranger* has been in. For, few carry the habit with them, though all there are so trained by *daily drilling*, that it soon becomes as difficult to neglect it, as it was at first to regard it.—*Thayer's Lectures.*

The sea of Time.

Oh, dark and mighty is that sea,
The restless Sea of Time;
Its waves unto life's river streams,
With solemn music chime;
And phantom men and nations tread
Its grim and gloomy shore,
The living to the land of death
To welcome evermore!

For the Ladies.

Mrs. Swisshelm, a vigorous writer, thus speaks a word to the ladies:—

Walking is getting quite out of fashion, and young women now-a-days wriggle along as if they were moved ahead by one of Erickson's patent propellers. Their walk is as crooked as that of a ship with all her sails and no rudder. They are as graceful in their motion as a militia colonel's horse, or a broken-down 'racker.' I notice they are awfully deformed, too, as a general rule, having great lumps on their backs, like dromedaries—all which are doubtless very pleasant to the trades in cotton batting and bay. This 'new edition' of the shape may be a great improvement on the original, but if so the original must be 'shocking bad,' for if there is an ugly-looking object about, it is one of these wadded and padded young women. If one of them should be furnished by nature with these humps [or heaps] she would be exhibited as a curiosity, at a fair, like a double-headed pig. Some months since somebody sent me through the P. O. a semicircular bag of cotton, and I was told it was a very prominent article of female apparel, used to perfect the human shape! It is a curiosity, and a few years hence I mean to send it as such to Barnum's Museum. It looks like any thing except an article of dress. There is nothing to compare it to, in the heavens above, on the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth. They call it—so I am told—a bishop—and if so, I certainly go in for,

'A church without a bishop,'

as heartily as for

'A State without a king.'

I hope after reading these strictures, that the young women will give up their wriggling through the streets like a parcel of eels; content themselves with the human form, and try the experiment, at least of acting like responsible beings.

Extract from Mr. Webster's speech,

In the Senate of the United States, Thursday, March 7th, 1850.

Mr. President, I wish to speak to-day, not as a Massachusetts man, nor as a Northern man, but as an American, and a member of the Senate of the United States. It is fortunate that there is a Senate of the United States—a body not yet moved from its propriety, not lost to a just sense of its own dignity, and its own high responsibilities, and a body to which the country looks with con-

fidence for wise, moderate, patriotic, and healing doctrine. It is not to be denied that we live in the midst of strong agitations, and in the midst of very considerable dangers to our institutions of government. The imprisoned winds are let loose. The East, the West, the North, and the stormy South, all combine to throw the whole ocean into commotion, and to toss its billows to the skies, and to disclose its profoundest depths. I do not expect, Mr. President, to hold, or to be fit to hold, the helm in this combat of the political elements; but I have a duty to perform, and I mean to perform it with fidelity—not without a sense of the surrounding dangers, but not without hope. I have a part to act, not for my own security or safety, for I am looking out for no fragment upon which to float away from the wreck, if wreck there must be, but for the good of the whole, and the preservation of the whole; and there is that which will keep me to my duty during this struggle, whether the sun and stars shall appear or shall not appear for many days. I speak to-day for the preservation of the Union. "Hear me for my cause." I speak to-day, out of a solicitous and anxious heart, for the restoration to the country of that quiet and that harmony which make the blessings of this Union so rich and so dear to us all. These are the topics that I propose to myself to discuss; these are the motives, and the sole motives, that influence me in the wish to communicate my opinions to the Senate and the country; and if I can do any thing, however little, for the promotion of these ends, I shall have accomplished all that I desire.

* * * *

Mr. President, I should much prefer to have heard from every member on this floor declarations of opinion that this Union should never be dissolved, than the declaration of opinion that in any case, under the pressure of any circumstances, such a dissolution was possible. I hear with pain, and anguish, and distress the word secession, especially when it falls from the lips of those who are eminently patriotic, and known to the country, and known all over the world, for their political services. Secession! Peaceable secession! Sir, your eyes and mine are never destined to see that miracle. The dismemberment of this vast country without convulsion! The bursting up of the fountains of the great deep without ruffling the surface! Who is so foolish—I beg every body's pardon, as to expect to see any such thing! Sir, he who sees these States, now revolving in harmony around a common center, and expects to see them quit their places and fly off without convulsion, may look at the next hour to see the heavenly bodies rush from their spheres and jostle against each other in the realms of space without producing a crash in the universe. There can be no such thing as a peaceable secession.—Peaceable secession is an utter impossibility. Is the great Constitution under which we live here, covering this whole country—is it to be thaw-

ed and melted away by secession, as the snows on the mountain melt under the influence of a vernal sun? disappear almost unobserved, and die off? No, sir! No, sir! I will not state what might produce the disruption of the States; but, sir, I see it as plainly as I see the sun in heaven, I see that disruption must produce such a war as I will not describe in its twofold consequences.

Peaceable secession!—peaceable secession!—The concurrent agreement of all the members of this great republic to separate! A voluntary separation, with alimony on one side and on the other, why, what would be the result? Where is the line to be drawn? What States are to secede? What is to remain American? What am I to be? Where is the flag of the republic to remain?—Where is the eagle still to tower? or is he to cower and shrink and fall to the ground? Why, sir, our ancestors—our fathers and our grandfathers, those of them that are yet living amongst us with prolonged lives, would rebuke and reproach us; and our children and our grandchildren would cry out shame upon us, if we of this generation should dishonor these ensigns of the power of the Government and the harmony of the Union which is every day felt among us with so much joy and gratitude. What is to become of the army? What is to become of the Navy? What is to become of the public lands? How is each of the thirty States to defend itself? I know, although the idea has not been stated distinctly. There is to be a Southern Confederacy, perhaps. I do not mean, when I allude to this statement, that any one seriously contemplates such a state of things. I do not mean to say that it is true, but I have heard it suggested elsewhere that the idea has originated from a design to separate. I am sorry, sir, that it has ever been thought of, talked of, or dreamed of, in the wildest flights of human imagination. But the idea must be of a separation including the slave States upon one side and the free States on the other.

Sir, there is not—I may express myself too strongly perhaps—but some things, some moral things, are almost as impossible as other natural or physical things; and I hold that the idea of a separation of these States, these that are free to form one government and those that are slaveholding to form another, as a moral impossibility. We could not separate the States by any such line if we were to draw it. We could not sit down here to-day and draw a line of separation that would satisfy any five men in the country. There are natural causes that would keep and tie us together—social and domestic relations which we could not break if we would, and which we should not if we could. Sir, nobody can look over the face of this country at the present moment—nobody can see where its population is the most dense and growing, without being ready to admit, and compelled to admit, that ere long America will be in the valley of the Mississippi.

Well, now, sir, I beg to inquire what the wild-

est enthusiast has to say on the possibility of cutting off that river and leaving free States at its sources and its branches, and slave States down near its mouth? Pray, sir, pray, sir, let me say to the people of this country that these things are worthy of their pondering and of their consideration. Here, sir, are five millions of freemen in the free States north of the river Ohio: can anybody suppose that this population can be severed by a line that divides them from the territory of a foreign and alien government, known some where, the Lord knows, where, upon the lower banks of the Mississippi? What would become of Missouri? Will she join the arondissement of the slave States? Shall the man from the Yellow Stone and the Mad River be connected in the new Republic with the man who lives on the southern extremity of the Cape of Florida? Sir, I am ashamed to pursue this line of remark. I dislike it—I have an utter disgust for it. I would rather hear of natural blasts and mildews, war, pestilence, and famine, than to hear gentlemen talk of secession. To break up! to break up this great Government—to dismember this great country—to astonish Europe with an act of folly such as Europe for two centuries has never beheld in any Government! No, sir; no sir! There will be no secession. Gentlemen are not serious when they talk of secession.

And now, Mr. President, instead of speaking of the possibility or utility of secession, instead of dwelling in these caverns of darkness, instead of groping with those ideas so full of all that is horrid and horrible, let us come out into the light of day; let us cherish those hopes which belong to us; let us devote ourselves to those great objects that are fit for our consideration and our action; let us raise our conceptions to the magnitude and the importance of the duties that devolve upon us; let our comprehension be as broad as the country for which we act, our aspirations as high as its certain destiny; let us not be pigmies in a case that calls for men.

Never did there devolve upon any generation of men higher trusts than now devolve upon us for the preservation of this constitution, and the harmony and peace of all who are destined to live under it. It is a great popular Constitutional Government, guarded by legislation, by law, by judicature, and defended by the whole affections of the people. No monarchical throne presses these States together, no iron chain of despotic power encircles them; they live and stand upon a Government popular in its form, representative in its character, founded upon principles of equality, and calculated, we hope, to last forever. In all its history it has been beneficent; it has trodden down no man's liberty; it has crushed no State. It has been, in all its influences, benevolent, beneficent, promoting the general prosperity, the general glory, and the general renown, and, at last, it has received a vast addition of territory. Large before, it has now, by recent events, be-

come vastly larger. This republic now extends, with a vast breadth, across the whole continent. The two great seas of the world wash the one and the other shore. We may realize the beautiful description of the ornamental edging of the buckler of Achilles—

"Now the broad shield complete the artist crowned,
With his last hand, and poured the ocean round;
In living silver seemed the waves to roll,
And beat the buckler's verge, and bound the whole."

From the Advocate.

Reminiscences of a 'Committee Man.'

Of the offices "in the gift of the people," some may be coveted for their emoluments: others, for the titles they confer: some, for their honors; others, for the respect paid to their possessor.—But he who craves a seat on the School Committee, must be influenced by "pure, unmixed benevolence." Its emoluments scarcely cover its expenses: it confers no title, makes a man neither Colonel nor Judge, not even a plain 'Squire, but simply a "Committee man." It brings no honors. The most faithful discharge of its duties is as likely to be rewarded with enmity as gratitude; and its possessor receives no homage, save in a few antiquated school-houses, where the pupils are taught to rise up at the entrance or exit of "the Committee" from their school room. And yet few offices are more important, or demand more sterling qualities in their occupants. Were the people duly sensible of this fact, no vote would be more carefully weighed, than that thrown for Superintending School Committees. On the other hand, were men rightly informed of its ungrateful labors, few would accept the office; for few have leisure, tact, and patience to discharge its duties, and a consciousness of the faithful performance of its obligations, is the only reward to be expected.

I took up my pen, however, without any intention of writing a labored article on this important topic, but merely to note down a few reminiscences of some ten years' service, by way of illustrating the "life of a committee man." If the recital should seem amusing, I can assure my readers these scenes were accompanied by other feelings than mirth, when acted out in real life. I was called to the duty almost at my first entrance on the stage of manhood. The other members of the Committee were older and more experienced, and had some knowledge of the inside of a school-room as teachers, while I had never entered one but as a pupil. I however tried to learn my duty, and to do it as well as I knew how. This had been comparatively an easy matter, had the various persons concerned done their duty. But I soon learned that little reliance could be placed on the recommendations with which the teachers were so abundantly supplied. Masters came, duly certified by preceptors of academies, and literary gentlemen, and even school committees in other towns, who were unable to pass the examination demanded by the statute. School agents too, in those days, engag-

ed teachers before they had obtained a certificate; and often I have known the master to come Saturday evening to be examined, when all the arrangements had been completed for him to commence the school on Monday morning; and in some cases, not till after he had actually been keeping a week or two.

A teacher came to my house one morning in great haste, and, with a tone that implied a demand rather than a request, signified her wish to have my signature to a certificate she had received from another member of the Committee. "I am in a great hurry," said she, without sitting down, "and my school begins on Monday, and I must have my certificate soon." I had some difficulty in convincing her, that I could not certify to an examination I never made; but she yielded at last, and as she answered the questions promptly, I made due consideration for her 'hurry,' and dismissed her with the desired signature.

Another teacher came, with a bundle of certificates from another town, but she failed to pass in some of the most important branches. I gave her a fortnight to review them. She came some time afterwards, and I asked her if she had reviewed the studies I mentioned. She replied with a good deal of spirit, "No!" I, of course, refused to repeat the examination. She was rather a "belle" in her way, and adorned with as many trinkets and airs, as is usual with that class. She was accompanied by a spruce, sleek youngster, who, I judged was her "beau." He pleaded her case like a lawyer, and I doubt not his client's cause lay near his heart. "Why," said he, in his personation, "I have no doubt she is qualified to keep school." "Very well," I replied, "then you could give her a certificate, but I cannot do it on *your* convictions, I must be convinced myself." She reluctantly gave up at last, and went home to her books. She came the third time, and said she had reviewed the branch in which she was deficient, and it was evident she had, to some purpose, for she passed a very satisfactory examination.

Some of the teachers were fond of "showing off." I always anticipated some amusement when they began that game, for the chairman was a plain-spoken man of the old school, and never showed any mercy to such exhibitions. We were together one day, examining a master in arithmetic. He had given the "grand flourish" two or three times, and I was quietly waiting to see his pinions clipped. The chairman however bore it with unusual patience, until the teacher, grown bold by indulgence, began to suggest different modes of operation in some of the rules of arithmetic, and inquire which he liked best, and how he would work out certain sums. "We came here," gruffly responded the old man, "not to teach you, but to see how much you know." It was a damper,—he attempted no more flights, but submitted to his examination like a hero.

Mineral Resources of California.

The following statement respecting the various mineral resources of California, is extracted from Dr. Wierzbicki's new work, "California as it is, and as it may be, or a Guide to the Gold Region."

"When considered in point of mineral productions, if allowed to be developed by capitalists, California is capable of becoming an important center of the commerce of the Pacific. Here we find, in the neighborhood of Clear Lake, about one hundred and twenty-five miles north of Sonoma, lead, copper, sulphur, and saltpeter; on the South side of San Francisco Bay, silver mines have been found, in the vicinity of Puebla de San Jose; quicksilver mines, which are pronounced to be richer than those of Spain, are already being worked to a great profit in the same region. Coal strata have also been found in the coast range of mountains near Santa Cruz, in the neighborhood of the Mission, San Luis Obispo, and near San Diego. California coal seems to be in the intermediate state, between the anthracite and the bituminous. It is not so hard as the former, nor so soft as the latter; it burns more easily than the first, and does not give out so smoky and unpleasant a flame as the second; it ignites easily, and burns with a very pleasant flame without much smoke. Iron is scattered through the mountains of the country, and we have no doubt that a workable mine of it will before long be discovered. We mention not the gold washings that are being worked so successfully at present, for as respects their duration and the development of the industry of the country, they scarcely deserve the attention of the economist, be they ever so rich, as all other mines are more beneficent in their influence to the progress of a country than gold miners. These will be the means of advancing the prosperity of the country, only when a regular system of mining by sinking shafts into the rock shall commence, which it is to be hoped will be done ere long.

Recently, in Fifeshire, by the agency of a voltaic battery, a piece of freestone measuring sixty-three feet in length, thirty-one in breadth and forty in depth, was detached in one compact mass from the inside of a quarry.

THE TRUE CAUSE—A gentleman observed to Dr. Johnson that there was less vagrant poor in Scotland than in England, and as a proof of it, said there was no instance of a beggar dying in the streets there. "I believe you are very right, sir," said Johnson, "but that does not arise from want of vagrants but from the impossibility of starving a Scotchman."

BEHIND THE AGE—Among all her seaward-looking cliff, Spain has not a single lighthouse, from the Pyrenees to Point Europa; she has no railroads, no canals, no telegraphs; and till recently there has been no safety for travelers on her highways.

ABSTRACT OF THE
METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER,

KEPT AT

Woodward College, Cincinnati,

Lat. 39 deg. 6 minutes N.; Long. 84 deg. 27 minutes W.
150 feet above Low Water Mark in the Ohio.

BY JOSEPH RAY, M. D.

February, 1850.

Day of M.	Fair height.		Barom.	Wind.			Weather.	Clearness of Sky.	Rain.
	Therm.	Therm.		A. M.	P. M.	Force.			
1	32.45	39.3	29.574	w	n w	1	var'ble	1	
2	30.36	31.0	.272	n	n e	3	cloudy	0	.91
3	5.20	11.0	.479	n w	n w	3	cloudy	0	
4	0.15	8.2	.748	n w	do	2	fair	9	
5	3.24	21.7	.915	n e	n e	1	fair	5	
6	25.41	35.3	.737	e	e	1	cloudy	0	
7	37.42	40.2	.521	e	s	1	do	0	.07
8	40.48	43.2	.145	s w	s w	1	do	0	2.18
9	30.40	33.0	28.904	n w	n w	2	var'ble	2	
10	25.33	28.0	.964	n e	do	2	cloudy	0	.25
11	24.38	31.2	29.401	n w	n	1	fair	8	
12	31.43	35.7	.538	e	e	2	var'ble	1	
13	31.38	35.0	.777	n e	n e	2	cloudy	0	.90
14	32.40	33.7	28.497	n w	n w	2	do	0	.51
15	23.48	27.2	29.085	w	w	1	var'ble	5	
16	14.41	27.2	.476	do	w	1	fair	8	
17	19.39	37.3	.238	s w	s w	3	do	6	.07
18	30.60	33.3	.007	do	w	2	var'ble	3	
19	23.46	31.7	.373	n w	s w	1	fair	8	
20	31.42	50.0	28.984	s w	do	3	var'ble	1	
21	36.46	30.7	29.282	w	w	1	do	1	
22	28.42	32.0	.602	n w	n e	1	fair	8	
23	23.46	35.8	.586	e	e	1	clear	10	
24	36.53	48.3	28.974	do	s w	2	var'ble	1	
25	32.58	48.3	29.023	s w	do	1	fair	6	
26	42.64	51.3	.049	do	s w	1	do	6	
27	46.59	53.0	.206	do	s w	1	cloudy	0	.90
28	50.72	57.2	28.652	do	s w	4	var'ble	2	.47

EXPLANATION.—The 1st column contains the day of the month; the 2d the minimum or least height of the thermometer, during the twenty-four hours beginning with the dawn of each day; the 3d the maximum, of greatest height during the same period; the 4th the mean or average temperature of the day, reckoning from sunrise to sunrise; the 5th the mean height of the barometer, corrected for particularity and reduced to the temperature of freezing water. In estimating the force of the wind, 0 denotes calm, 1 a gentle breeze, 2 a strong breeze, 3 a light wind, 4 a strong wind, and 5 a storm. In estimating the clearness of the sky, 10 denotes entire clearness, or that which is nearly so, and the other figures, from 0 to 10, the corresponding proportions of clearness. The other columns need no explanation.

SUMMARY—

Least height of Thermometer,	0 deg.
Greatest height of do	72
Monthly range of do	72
Least daily variation of do	5
Greatest daily variation of do	59
Mean temperature of month,	35.6
do do at sunrise,	29.3
do do at 2 P. M.	43.1

Coldest day, February 4th.

Mean temperature of coldest day, 8.2

Warmest day, February 28.

Mean temp. of warmest day, 57.2

Minimum height of Barometer, 28.437 inches

Maximum do do 29.915 do

Range of do do 1.478 do

Mean height of do 29.2642 do

No. of days of rain and snow, 13.

Perpendicular depth of rain and melted snow, 6.29 in.

Perpendicular depth of unmelted snow, 19 in.

WEATHER.—Clear and fair, 10 days; variable nine days—cloudy, 9 days.**WIND.**—N. 1 day; N. E. 3½ days; E. 3½ days; S. E. 0 day; S. 1 day; S. W. 8½ days; W. 4 days; N. W. 6½ days.

MEMORANDA.—1st Damp, with slight drizzle; 2d Wet day, began to snow at 8 P. M.; 3d Spitting snow during day; 4th Fair and cold; 5th Fair and hazy; 6th Thawing; 7th Gloomy and drizzly; 8th Wet, remarkable fog in the evening; 9th Snowy till 9 A. M.; 10th Snowed all day till 1 P. M.; 11th Fair after 9 A. M.; 12th Very

damp; 13th Began to snow 11 A. M., and continued through the day and part of the night of the 14th; lightning night 17th; from 14th to 27th, weather pleasant, fair and variable; 27th warm and drizzly, heavy rain in night; 28th very warm, variable day, stormy night.

OBSERVATIONS.—The striking feature of this month has been the large amount of snow, although the greater portion of it melted immediately after it reached the surface. Although the thermometer was once at zero, yet the mean of the whole month is about 2 degrees higher than the average temperature of February for the last 16 years. The range of the thermometer has been very great, though not quite so great as in 1840. The quantity of rain and melted snow is more than twice the average amount for the same month.

WINTER OF 1849-50.—The winter of 1849-50 presents the following characteristics.

Mean temperature,	34.6 deg.
Minimum temperature,	0.
Maximum do,	75.
Depth of rain and melted snow,	16.8 inches.
Depth of unmelted snow,	47 do.
No. of days of rain and snow,	47.

By Winter in meteorological reckoning, is meant the period from December the 1st to March 1st—90 days. The mean temperature of this period for the last fifteen years is 33°8, so that the past winter is 8 tenths of a degree warmer than the average. It is, however, the coldest of the last four winters.—The minimum temperature was the lowest since Jan. 10th, 1848, when the thermometer indicated 4 degrees below zero. But Feb. 4th, 1850, taking the average, was the coldest since Jan 7th, 1847. The most distinguished feature of the winter was the great amount of snow; this rendered the weather peculiarly unpleasant to many invalids, especially those afflicted with neuralgia. Judging from the records, the weather has not been on the whole, unfavorable to the fall grains. The amount of rain and melted snow is about one half more than the average quantity for the last sixteen winters; although, in this respect, as well as some others, it is nearly the same as the last four winters.

A Large Meteor.

An explosion of a meteor was heard in North Carolina, a few days ago, and several pieces of iron were picked up next day, supposed to be portions of it. The largest piece was found in Cabarrus County, weighing nineteen pounds. It had struck a large pine tree lying on the ground, went through it, breaking it in two, and then into the earth to the depth of three feet.

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